

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 06530 061747Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 040527

O 061551Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 939

S E C R E T ROME 6530

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PRESIDENT FORD) IT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO ROME, I: SCOPE AND  
OBJECTIVES

REF: STATE 103235

IN THIS AND FOLLOWING TELEGRAMS THE EMBASSY SUBMITS ITS  
RECOMMENDATIONS RESPONSIVE TO REFTEL. MATTERS PERTAINING  
TO VATICAN VISIT ALSO FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.

1. PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT COMES AT A TIME OF CONTINUING  
ITALIAN PREOCCUPATION WITH DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS. INTERNALLY, ITALIANS ARE WRESTLING WITH A  
RANGE OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, WITH A FAIR DEGREE OF SUCCESS.  
POLITICALLY, THEY ARE FOCUSED ON THE UPCOMING (JUNE 15)  
ELECTIONS WHICH, ALTHOUGH REGIONAL AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE IN  
SCOPE, WILL BE VIEWED AS AN IMPORTANT INDICATOR OF MAJOR  
POLITICAL TRENDS AND AS A POSSIBLE HARBINGER OF ANOTHER MAJOR  
GOVERNMENTAL RE-SHUFFLE. INTERNATIONALLY, THE ITALIANS ARE  
INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WITH POLITICAL TURBULENCE THROUGHOUT  
THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND HAVE SOME DOUBTS AS TO THE VALIDITY OF  
AMERICAN SECURITY COMMITMENTS IN EUROPE.

2. THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT WOULD BE  
TO REAFFIRM, ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT:

THE STRENGTH AND RELIABILITY OF THE CONTINUING AMERICAN  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ROME 06530 061747Z

COMMITMENT TO EUROPE;

OUR INTENTION TO HELP STABILIZE THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA BY  
WORKING FOR NEGOTIATED AND DURABLE SETTLEMENTS IN THE  
ARAB-ISRAEL AND CYPRUS PROBLEMS; AND

OUR INTENTION TO PURSUE DETENTE, WORKING WITH AND FROM A  
STRONG AND COHESIVE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

3. ON THE DOMESTIC SCENE, OUR OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO:

EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO STABLE AND DEMO-  
CRATIC GOVERNMENT IN ITALY;

EVIDENCE OUR ADMIRATION FOR THE EFFECTIVE, FORTHRIGHT AND  
NON/DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES ITALY HAS TAKEN TO MEET  
THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT IT AS A RESULT  
OF HIGH ENERGY PRICES.

4. TO THESE ENDS, WE SHOULD BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE  
WITH THE ITALIAN LEADERSHIP, ACKNOWLEDGING ITALY'S CONTRI-  
BUTIONS TO THE ALLIANCE AND RECOGNIZING ITS PARTICULAR EXTERNAL  
SECURITY CONCERNS AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL PREOCCUPATIONS. WE  
SHOULD NOT ONLY BE PREPARED TO OFFER OUR FRANK ASSESSMENTS,  
BUT ALSO SOLICIT ITALIAN VIEWS, ON:

NATO AFTER THE MAY SUMMIT;

THE DEVELOPING SITUATION IN PORTUGAL;  
THE POST-FRANCO SCENE IN SPAIN, INCLUDING THE RELEVANCE OF  
A SPANISH-NATO LINK TO THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIC  
TRANSITION THERE;  
THE PROGNOSIS FOR THE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE IN THE LIGHT OF  
THE RECENT MEETING WITH SADAT; AND  
DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING RESOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE.

5. TIME PERMITTING, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SHARE OUR VIEWS  
ON DETENTE, SPECIFICALLY ON THE COURSE OF SALT, MBFR, AND CSCE  
NEGOTIATIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT WE SHOULD CONGRATULATE THE  
ITALIANS FOR THEIR RECENT RATIFICATION OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION  
TREATY, AND STRESS THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO ITALIAN  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ROME 06530 061747Z

ASSUMPTION OF THE EC PRESIDENCY (THIS JULY).

6. AT THE SAME TIME WE SHOULD SET FORTH OUR CONCERNS WITH  
CERTAIN SUBJECTS SENSITIVE IN ITALY:

IT IS OF COURSE FOR THE ITALIANS TO MAKE THEIR OWN  
DECISIONS REGARDING THEIR GOVERNANCE. HOWEVER, WE  
CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN

THE AREA OF GOVERNMENT WOULD CREATE MAJOR POLITICAL,  
ECONOMIC AND SECURITY PROBLEMS INJURIOUS NOT ONLY TO  
ITALY ITSELF BUT TO THE WESTERN ALLIANCE IN GENERAL.

THE UNITED STATES IS OFTEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE FIGHT  
FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE, WORKING EITHER WITHIN THE  
NATO OR, WHEN NECESSARY, BILATERALLY. IN AT LEAST  
SOME PAST INSTANCES, NATO SOLIDARITY HAS NOT BEEN  
TRANSLATED FROM THE RHETORIC TO SPECIFIC SUPPORTIVE  
ACTION (E.G., PLO AND PRG REPRESENTATION IN INTER-  
NATIONAL BODIES).

DETENTE HAS TO DATE BEEN FAIRLY SUCCESSFUL IN REDUCING  
THE RISKS OF NUCLEAR WAR, AND IN MOVING POLITICAL/  
ECONOMIC CONTENTION TO THE IDEOLOGICAL PLANE.  
HOWEVER, IF DEMOCRACY IS TO WIN OUT, DETENTE HAS  
MADE IT ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT FOR OUR SOCIETIES  
TO MOVE RAPIDLY AND EFFECTIVELY IN SUPPORT OF  
MODERATION AND IN DEFIANCE OF TOTALITARIANISM OF  
THE LEFT (AS MAY NOW THREATEN IN PORTUGAL), OR OF  
THE RIGHT. PASSIVITY WILL ONLY ENCOURAGE COMMUNIST  
ACTIVITY IN POLITICAL PARTIES, LABOR UNIONS PRESS,  
RADIO AND TV. VOLPE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ROME06530  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750158-0850  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750577/aaaacsll.tel  
**Line Count:** 138  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 103235  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO ROME, I: SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES  
**TAGS:** OVIP, IT, (FORD, GERALD R)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006